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DEVELOPMENTS IN BULGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE

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The Bulgarian people have seen the year 1955 close with noticeable successes in the development of all branches of their socialist economy. New industrial, power-producing, and other enterprises have been put into operation. The volume of industrial production in 1955 amounted to almost 5.5 times that of 1939, and the production of heavy industry, to 10 times that of 1939. New achievements have also been made in Bulgarian socialized agriculture, the socialist forms of which are continuously growing and strengthening. It is increasingly being augmented by science and mechanization.

Labor productivity is rising in all branches of the national economy. Real wages of blue- and white-collar workers are rising, as is the income of the farmers.

The international position of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has been further strengthened. Bulgaria is a member of the UN enjoying equal rights, and represents a factor in the preservation of peace in the Balkans.

The successes achieved during 1955 in the development of the Bulgarian national economy are a result of the successful labor efforts of all the Bulgarian people, the great aid of the Soviet Union, and the brotherly cooperation and mutual assistance among the countries of the entire socialist camp.

Bulgarian foreign trade, which during 1955 achieved new successes in importing and exporting and in the development of economic relations with other countries, has made a considerable contribution to these achievements. During the last 3 years, the goods exchange volume of Bulgaria's foreign trade was equal to that of the entire First Five-Year Plan. Fulfillment of the import-export plan for the past 2 1/2 years was as follows (in percent):

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>First Half of 1955</u>
Export	95.5	104.2	122.7
Import	103.9	106.2	104.0
Total exchange of goods	99.5	105.1	111.9

The goods exchange of the People's Republic of Bulgaria with all countries with which it trades has increased. Trade relations with a number of countries have been renewed and have become normalized. Bulgaria has concluded or renewed trade agreements with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Turkey, Austria, Egypt, the GDR, Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Sweden, India, Indonesia, Japan, Finland, Israel, etc. Pending financial problems with Switzerland, Sweden, Great Britain, and France have been settled. In addition to regular agreements with the USSR and the People's Democracies, long-term agreements have been concluded with Hungary, Rumania, and Albania.

The industrialization and electrification of the country and the mechanization of agriculture and transport have been aided by importing various complete installations, machines, and materials. In addition, the Bulgarian people have received a number of food commodities. The Bulgarian export list has been enriched with new export goods, and the share of industrial goods on this list amounts to almost 60 percent.

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The number of Bulgarian trade agencies has increased from 21 in 1952 to 29 in 1955.

The share of certain individual countries in Bulgaria's goods exchange in 1955, expressed in monetary terms, was as follows (in percent): USSR, 47; the German Federal Republic, 2.87. Eighty-seven percent of the total fell to the world market of the People's Democracies. Bulgaria's trade with capitalist countries, however, is also increasing. It grew from 11 percent in 1952 to 13 percent in 1955.

The great successes of the Bulgarian socialist economy, as well as of Bulgarian foreign trade, were displayed at the 16th International Samples Fair in Plovdiv in 1955, in which 20 countries participated in collective pavilions or individual stands, and at which rather sizable export and import agreements were reached. The fair has illustrated the favorable possibilities which exist for the development of trade, both with socialist countries and with such capitalist lands, France, Switzerland, and Great Britain.

The 1956 economic plan places new increased production and construction tasks before the various branches of the national economy, especially before industry and agriculture. This also increases the tasks of Bulgarian foreign trade.

The constantly increasing imports require an increase in Bulgarian exports, since, in addition to payments for current imports, Bulgaria has to pay off credits granted to it earlier. This means that in 1956, Bulgaria must increase the exports of certain agricultural products, such as tobacco and fresh and canned fruits and vegetables. Production of early fruits and vegetables, for which favorable conditions exist in Bulgaria, must also be developed. Particularly sharp must be the increase in the export of high-quality products of heavy and light industry, such as machines, products of the electrical industry, metallic and nonmetallic minerals, textiles, leather goods, furniture, products of the glass and porcelain industry, and a number of other industrial commodities. The important task of Bulgaria's foreign trade workers is to expand and open new markets for these goods.

Favorable possibilities exist for the expansion of the market for Bulgarian export goods in the USSR and the People's Democracies on the basis of both conventional trade agreements and new long-term agreements. Good possibilities also exist for increasing Bulgarian exports to capitalist countries, such as Austria, the German Federal Republic, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Great Britain, France, Finland, and other European countries. Bulgaria can also considerably increase its goods exchange with a number of countries in the Near and Far East, such as India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. Bulgarian trade with these countries is still very limited.

Bulgarian trade relations with countries of Africa and South America can also be expanded. There are possibilities of trade with Burma and Australia which should be utilized. Possibilities of trade with Canada must also be investigated, and attempts must be made for the sale of rose oil and other commodities to the US.

Trade agreements with Bulgaria's neighbors, Yugoslavia, Turkey, and Greece, offer opportunities for expansion and an even further increase in the exchange of goods with them.

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A struggle must be waged with greater perseverance to achieve a high quality of Bulgarian export commodities to maintain their good reputation. In connection with the development and increase in exports, Bulgarian foreign trade enterprises should be supplied with high-quality printed propaganda materials and should make a timely use of all forms of commercial advertising.

With the development of Bulgarian foreign trade in 1956, with new as well as present trading partners, the construction of socialism in Bulgaria will be advanced. Moreover, the Bulgarian people will be able to show the world even more clearly their constant striving for peace and peaceful economic cooperation on an equal footing.

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